

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 8, 2006, in the above-identified application.

As an initial matter, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2-7, 9-11, 14, 17 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 therein, amended claim 12 to incorporate the limitations of claims 13 and 14 therein, and amended claim 18 to incorporate the limitations of claims 19 and 20 therein. In addition, Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 13-14 and 19-20.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to paragraph [0027] as having an informality. In response, Applicants have amended paragraph [0027] to overcome the Examiner's objection. Applicants note that James D. Ralph has also been listed as an inventor of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/430,005. Applicants have also amended specification paragraph [0001] to note that U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/075,688 has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,663,638.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,440,142. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-20 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,663,638. In response, Applicants have filed herewith a

Terminal Disclaimer to overcome U.S. Patent Nos. 6,440,142 and 6,663,638.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 12-13 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,159,215 to Urbahns et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,431,658 to Moskovich. In view of the above-noted amendments to independent claims 1, 12 and 18, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: December 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By Michael J. Doherty

Michael J. Doherty

Registration No.: 40,592

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicants